

Orange County Natural Areas Inventory

PERSIMMON NURSERY FLATS

New Site 2004

Site Number: C05

Size: 95 acres

Site Significance: Regional

USGS Quadrangle: White Cross

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES: This is an unusual hardpan that contains a mixture of wetland and upland species. It appears to be a Mixed Moisture Variant of Basic Oak—Hickory Forest, which is poorly known or described in the state.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Basic Oak—Hickory Forest (Mixed Moisture Variant)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This flat upland area with Iredell soils and some hardpan development contains a fair quality, mature Basic Oak—Hickory Forest (Mixed Moisture Variant) with a mixture of wetland and upland species. The canopy contains willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) as a dominant, but white oak (*Q. alba*), southern red oak (*Q. falcata*), post oak (*Q. stellata*), and uncommon swamp white oak (*Q. bicolor*), as well as mockernut hickory (*C. tomentosa*) and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) are present. The understory contains flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), winged elm (*Ulmus alata*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), Virginia red-cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and southern sugar maple (*Acer barbatum*). Sphagnum moss occurs in patches at scattered locations in the site. There do not appear to be any rock outcrops.

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: This site is unprotected and under high threat of development.

OWNERSHIP: Private

REFERENCES:

Sather, D. and S. Hall. 1988. Inventory of the Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats of Orange County, North Carolina, Appendix B: Biological Documentation of Sites. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, DENR, Raleigh, NC.

Oakley, S.C., H.E. LeGrand, Jr., and M.P. Schafale. 1995. An Inventory of Mafic Natural Areas in the North Carolina Piedmont. North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, Division of Parks and Recreation, DENR, Raleigh, NC.